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GREGG AND SUNUNU ANNOUNCE \$7.6 MILLION FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT PEASE AND THE NAVAL SHIPYARD

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and John Sununu (R-NH) today announced that the Fiscal Year 2004 Military Construction Appropriations bill has been approved by the full Appropriations Committee and includes \$7.6 million secured for two projects which affect the Granite State: \$6.1 million for a new fire, crash and rescue station on the Pease Air National Guard Base in Newington and \$1.5 million for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Structural Shop Consolidation Project. The measure is now ready for consideration by the entire Senate.

Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, stated, "The men and women of the Air National Guard provide an invaluable contribution to the support of national security objectives, and with many of these men and woman working long hours and the Pease Fire Station being a 24-hour facility, it is necessary that the base is home to a modern rescue facility. The work being done at the Shipyard continues to not only set records but come in on-budget as well. The consolidation study will allow the Shipyard to start to modernize its production process to reduce costs and minimize the amount of time submarines are out of the water."

Senator Sununu stated, "The personnel at Pease Air National Guard and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard play a critical role helping to keep America's armed forces strong. This legislation represents a commitment to ensuring they have the resources they need to continue doing a tremendous job using the most up-to-date equipment and production processes."

The rescue station is a 22,000 square foot facility that will provide protection in support of the civil airfield operations at the Pease International Tradeport, aircraft assigned to the New Hampshire Air National Guard and the Air Mobility Command's Northeast Tanker Task Force mission. The design is 35% complete and the site for the project has already been selected. The Shipyard's appropriation will fund a design study to modernize and relocate the Shipfitters Shop, making work currently done under practices dating back to World War II, more efficient. This study is the initial step in a larger project to increase production efficiency and reduce building maintenance and utility costs.

The Military Construction Appropriation Bill provides funding for the design and construction of military facilities worldwide and military family housing. It provides community impact assistance and aids members of the military who face loss on the sale of private residences as a result of installation realignments and closures.